

Appendix D contains 734 tax listings for African American Wilmingtonians with J-Z surnames that owned property based on 1897 and 1900 New Hanover County tax lists. Sue Ann Cody utilized tax records in her thesis “After the Storm” and provided the compiler with copies of her accumulated records that contained individual names, block numbers, and property values for 1897 and 1900 tax years. In her thesis, Cody, who analyzed most closely A-J surnames, acknowledged that the 1897 and 1900 tax records were incomplete because apparently “not everyone listed property for taxes.” In the 1897 list 2,378 blacks appeared and only 1,930 were shown in 1900. Wilmington had a population of 11,324 African Americans in 1890 and 10,407 in 1900. The 1897 city directory listed 3,759 blacks; it contained 3,550 in 1900. Cody stated the following about problem of studying the tax records:

Part of the decline [in numbers of people] can be attributed to the realization that it was futile to pay poll tax if one was not allowed to vote. Just as with city directories, it must be accepted that an analysis using this data source is not comprehensive.¹

The number of people on the tax lists is further reduced when non-landowners are excluded. Of the people with J-Z surnames owning property in 1897 and 1900, Thomas C. Miller had the most land. His total property was valued at \$3,225 in 1897 and \$5,550 in 1900. John G. Norwood also owned multiple lots with seven total. Those were valued at \$2,225 in 1897 and 1900. Listings are tagged to indicate whether the property value increased, decreased, or remained the same. For instance, in 1897, Martha McKoy’s parcel in Block 106 had a tax assessment of \$525. However, three years later, it dropped

¹Tax Lists, 1897 and 1900 (microfilm), New Hanover County Tax Records, N.C. State Archives, Raleigh; Sue Ann Cody, “After the Storm: Racial Violence in Wilmington, North Carolina and Its Consequences for African Americans, 1898-1905” (master’s thesis, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 2000), 122-124; *Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Part I* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1895; New York: Norman Ross Publishing Inc., 1994), 473; *Twelfth Census of the United States taken in the Year 1900, Population, Part I: Population* (Washington: United States Census Office, 1901; New York: Norman Ross Publishing Inc., 1997), 671.